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Case of smallpox in Wheeling, W. Va.

WHEELING, W. VA., June 22, 1900.

SIR: A man was admitted to Wheeling hospital in the night of 12th instant. On the 14th the case was diagnosticated as smallpox and patient removed to Municipal Hospital. It is a severe case of discrete form, almost confluent on face; originated in Murray, Hocking County, Ohio.

Respectfully,

S. L. JEPSON, M. D.,
Health Officer.

Steamers bringing immigrants to Port Townsend do not comply with the law.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., June 13, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that it is extremely difficult to make the steamship companies bringing immigrants to this port live up to the letter of the law. They are continually introducing tramp vessels among their regular liners, whose officers are unfamiliar with our requirements, and, being inadequately instructed by the company before departure, small and great irregularities as a consequence are continuously occurring. The vessels are by no means kept in as hygienic a condition as they should be. This is bad enough on board of steamers coming from clean ports, but from infected places, like Hongkong, it certainly is a source of great danger. The steamship *Queen Adelaide*, of the Northern Pacific Line, came in yesterday in a condition almost beyond belief. Her water-closets were filthy, her deck and fore-castle covered with refuse of all kinds, and her steerage simply indescribable. * * *

A mass of old matting, the remains of food, dust, and dirt to the depth of 1 inch covered the floor, and other discarded articles and old lumber were scattered around. * * * Sixteen men could not be accounted for. * * * As required by the bill of health, the doctor could not speak English. I started to send this vessel to the station for a thorough mechanical cleaning up. After considerable reflection I decided to allow this one to pass and address a letter to the company, informing them of these matters and giving them notice that a recurrence of such conditions would most certainly lead to the detention and disinfection of their vessels here. I wrote them a letter on the same line some weeks ago, and now, with this second notice, consider they had fair warning and would justly deserve any penalty that may be inflicted for a repetition of this offence.

In regard to the matter of surgeons on board, I would invite your attention to the fact that they are placing Japanese on board in this capacity, who can not speak English, who appear to have no medical qualifications, and who are held in no respect by the masters of the vessels. It is impossible to obtain any intelligent information from them concerning any cases of illness that may have occurred en route, and as far as we are concerned they might just as well make no pretense of carrying a surgeon.

I think something should be done to compel them to carry men who speak English and one of some medical intelligence. I have notified the company concerning all these matters, and think that if the vessel is held here for a few days, they would soon rectify them. There are other sufficient reasons, as covered by the regulations, for which we could hold the vessel besides that of pure filthiness, and I have written

this letter in order that you may have a clearer understanding of the condition of affairs in case I should wire you of the redisinfection of a vessel here.

Respectfully,

M. H. FOSTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Reports of States and yearly and monthly reports of cities of the United States.

COLORADO—*Denver*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 175,000. Total number of deaths, 181, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 2; scarlet fever, 2, and 43 from tuberculosis.

MARYLAND—*Baltimore*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 541,000—white, 463,000; colored, 78,000. Total number of deaths, 781—white, 571; colored, 210, including diphtheria, 9; enteric fever, 7; measles, 1; whooping cough, 6, and 92 from tuberculosis.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Worcester*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 113,273. Total number of deaths, 164, including diphtheria, 6; measles, 7; scarlet fever, 6; whooping cough, 3, and 29 from tuberculosis.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended June 16, 1900, from 76 observers indicate that enteric fever, whooping cough, and phthisis pulmonalis increased and scarlet fever, intermittent fever, pleuritis, influenza, measles, and cholera morbus decreased in area of prevalence.

Phthisis pulmonalis was reported present at 170, scarlet fever at 61, enteric fever at 27, diphtheria at 25, whooping cough at 23, smallpox at 8, and cerebro-spinal meningitis at 4 places.

MISSOURI—*St. Joseph*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 75,000. Total number of deaths, 62, including 8 from tuberculosis.

NEW YORK—*Auburn*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 35,000. Total number of deaths, 52, including diphtheria, 3; whooping cough, 1, and 5 from phthisis pulmonalis.

OHIO—*Cleveland*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 395,000. Total number of deaths, 527, including diphtheria, 5; enteric fever, 22; measles, 1; scarlet fever, 3; whooping cough, 4; smallpox, 3, and 58 from tuberculosis.

RHODE ISLAND—*Newport*.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 21,500. Total number of deaths, 40, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 2, and 5 from tuberculosis.